

## SYMPOSIUM ON NORTHEAST ASIA SECURITY

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Symposium on Northeast Asian Security was held in Shanghai this year on 27-29 September. Participants were selected from the U.S., China, Russia, Republic of Korea, and Japan. Although invited, Mongolia was unable to send a representative.

The PACOM participants included Dr. Dave Dorman (China SFG), Dr. Brad Kaplan (China SFG), CAPT John Figuerres (DPRK SFG), COL Dave Parker (SJFHQ), and Ms. Marrie Schaefer (J921). The U.S. Consulate Shanghai in partnership with Tongji University hosted the event. The theme for this year's event was "Dealing with Transnational Challenges in Northeast Asia". Specific topics included panel discussions on Cooperative Security and Common Security: Beyond Geopolitics; Military Role in Civil Humanitarian Assistance and Cooperation in Peace-keeping; and Cooperation in Environmental Protection: Dealing with Climate Change and Energy Security.

Dr. Kaplan and CAPT Figuerres gave presentations on behalf of PACOM and were lauded both by the U.S. Consulate and Chinese audience as being well focused, inspiring, and impressive.

Tongji University allowed students to occupy the back benches and who were then able to raise questions to the participants during coffee breaks. One student, after hearing one of the PACOM presentations noted that he learned a lot about the importance of communication. He went on to write that "We may disagree with each other's opinions, but we are still willing to listen and learn".

The value of Public Diplomacy outreach that brings together people from many differing cultures, backgrounds and viewpoints to discuss important security related issues can't be overstated. It has been assessed that Tongji University was an excellent partner to work with.

An additional bonus to having the SNEAS program in Shanghai this year is that it was the site of the "2010 Worlds Fair". Participants were given the privilege to visit the fair and take advantage of the many learning opportunities it presented.



Shanghai City Lights



Dr. Dorman and COL Parker



Tongji University students with COL Parker, Marrie Schaefer and CAPT Figuerres from PACOM